

>>> "Wally" <wmaslow@wildblue.net> 4/12/2011 3:17 PM >>>

Representative Crawford,

Regarding HB4293 and HB4294, there are a number of issues with the wording of this Bill. I have been in the firework business for over 20 years as a display operator. This bill is intended to allow Michigan residents to legally purchase and shoot consumer fireworks. Display fireworks should not be a part of this Bill since they have always been allowed with the proper permits. The BATF currently has strict regulations in place regarding display fireworks distributors and their display operators. All the dialog in this bill should specify the word "consumer" in front of the word "fireworks".

Also, a \$3000.00 certificate fee seems excessive (page 6, line 20). This could eliminate many of the small businesses from selling fireworks. Many people that haven't participated in firework festivities in the past are more likely to stop in at the local fireworks store, rather than driving 50 or 100 miles to a large super store. This would generate more local sales and revenue for the State.

A question I have is; Why does the retailer get to keep one percent of the safety fee? (page 12, line 16). If the State keeps this one percent, they wouldn't need to have such a high permit fee. I don't know what dollar amount of sales is predicted, but, the one percent might even be greater than the total of all the permit fees in the State.

I also feel the penalties, (section 20), regarding the person that violates this act are misdirected. Penalties should be directed to the individual discharging the fireworks. That person should be responsible for his own actions regarding safety. He should make sure the fireworks are ignited at a safe distance to spectators and discharged on a proper surface, so as not to tip over.

I request my opposition to the current wording of this Bill be submitted into the Regulatory Reform Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

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